

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the indication of the allowability of the subject matter of Claims 8, 9 and 11-14, as set forth in paragraphs 9 through 11 of the Office Action. By the foregoing amendment, Claim 8 has been cancelled, and its subject matter incorporated into Claims 1 and 13, thereby rendering the latter claims allowable. In addition, Claim 11 has been cancelled, and its subject matter incorporated into Claims 12, 13 and 14, as discussed below. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims which remain of record in this application are now allowable.

In response to the objection to the drawings, set forth at paragraph 3 of the Office Action, a replacement sheet has been submitted, which includes a corrected version of Figure 1. In addition, in response to the objection to the disclosure set forth in paragraph 4, of the Office Action, Applicants have amended paragraph [0027] in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Finally, Claims 3, 11, 13 and 14 have been amended in a manner which addresses and is believed to resolve the grounds of objection set forth in paragraph 6 of the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of all such grounds of objection are respectfully requested.

As noted previously, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claims 7 and 8. In view of the indication of the allowability of the

subject matter of Claim 8, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, as well as Claims 3-6 and 9 which depend, directly or indirectly therefore, are now allowable. Similarly, Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 8, and are also believed to be allowable for the same reason.

Claim 12 has been rewritten to place it in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that the steps recited therein, including opening all of the switches, sensing a voltage which is present at the measuring instrument, and detecting a fault in the monitoring circuit if the sensed voltage lies outside a setpoint range, are neither taught nor suggested in the Yamamoto et al reference. In fact, the Yamamoto et al reference contains no discussion which considers any method for detecting a failure within the monitoring circuit itself. Accordingly, Claim 12 is believed to distinguish over Yamamoto et al.


In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

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please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit
Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038743.53094US).

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment – Replacement Sheet (Figure 1)

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet